

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 6-13, 15-17 & 20 are at issue. Claims 1, 2, 6-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fung et al (USPN 5,107,465) in view of Chang et al (USPN 6,870,413). Claims 3 & 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushi et al (USPN 6,836,426) in view of Fung et al (USPN 5,107,465) in view of Chang et al (USPN 6,870,413) stand rejected. Claims 5, 6, 19 & 20 are allowable.

Claims 9 & 10 have been amended to overcome the indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

Claim 1 requires a reference generating circuit. The Examiner points to Fung elements 25, 26 & 27. Fung refers to elements 25 & 26 as the slave of a master slave flip flop. Element 27 is referred to as an inverter. (Col. 36-38) This is clearly not a reference generating circuit. Adding Chang does not solve the problem, since replacing element 27 with a Schmitt trigger does not make the combination of elements a reference generating circuit. No reference level is generated. No one skilled in the art would buy the Examiner's suggestion that this represents a reference generating circuit. Claim 1 is clearly allowable.

Claim 2 is allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 3 by reference requires a reference generating circuit. The combination of Fukushi, Fung and Chang does not show or suggest a reference generating circuit having a latch and Schmitt trigger. The Examiner points to Fung elements 25, 26 & 27. Fung refers to elements 25 & 26 as the slave of a master slave flip flop. Element 27 is referred to as an inverter. (Col. 36-38) This is clearly not a reference generating circuit. Adding Chang does not solve the problem, since replacing element 27 with a Schmitt trigger does not make the combination of elements a reference generating circuit. No reference level is generated. No one skilled in the art would buy the Examiner's suggestion that this represents a reference generating circuit. Claim 3 is clearly allowable.

Claim 6 requires that the second transmission gate be between the output of the latch and the cross coupled latch. The output of latch 25, 26 of Fung is not the transmission gate 22. No one skilled in the art would agree with the Examiner's argument. Anyone skilled in the art would call the input to inverter 27 as the output of the latch formed by elements 25 & 26. Claim 6 is clearly allowable.

Claims 7 & 8 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 9 requires a reference generating circuit. The Examiner points to Fung elements 25, 26 & 27. Fung refers to elements 25 & 26 as the slave of a master slave flip flop. Element 27 is referred to as an inverter. (Col. 36-38) This is clearly not a reference generating circuit. Adding Chang does not solve the problem, since replacing element 27 with a Schmitt trigger does not make the combination of elements a reference generating circuit. No reference level is generated. No one skilled in the art would buy the Examiner's suggestion that this represents a reference generating circuit.

In addition, claim 9 requires a reference input. No reference input is shown or suggested by the prior art. Claim 9 is clearly allowable.

Claims 10, 11 & 13 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 12 states that the cross coupled latch latches on a voltage less than a transistor threshold. It does not say as the Examiner suggests on a voltage equal to the input voltage less a transistor threshold drop. Claim 12 is clearly allowable.

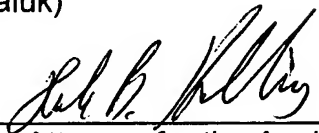
Claim 15 requires a reference voltage generating circuit. The Examiner points to Fung elements 25, 26 & 27. Fung refers to elements 25 & 26 as the slave of a master slave flip flop. Element 27 is referred to as an inverter. (Col. 36-38) This is clearly not a reference generating circuit. Adding Chang does not solve the problem, since replacing element 27 with a Schmitt trigger does not make the combination of elements a reference generating circuit. No reference level is generated. No one skilled in the art would buy the Examiner's suggestion that this represents a reference generating circuit. Claim 15 is clearly allowable.

Claims 16, 17 & 20 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

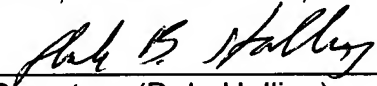
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that an Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

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Signature (Dale Halling)